

● *THE Nightmare On Elm Street* saga, which ends with this sixth episode has changed a lot of things. The career of star Robert Englund, for one.

RADA-trained Englund had spent 10 years in films playing punks and hoodlums when offered the first *Elm Street* film in 1984. Now, at 44, he's a multi-millionaire and the world's best-loved homicidal maniac. No wonder he says: "Freddy has changed my life."

He recalls, "I auditioned for the first film wearing all black with my hair slicked back. I played it like Lee Harvey Oswald. And I played staring games with the director, Wes Craven. I guess I must have spooked him or something. At any rate I got the part."

"The first film was quite a success without any hype. I knew that when I went to a *Star Trek* convention, and punks and heavy metal kids started coming up and asked for Freddy autographs. They were quoting lines from the movie!

"Now it's become a strange cross-culture phenomenon. It's wider than I ever thought. Most of the people are real nice, but wierdos do exist. Someone used to call my house every three days and make up little Freddy poems.

FREDDY'S DEAD

THE FINAL NIGHTMARE

DAVID QUINLAN reviews
the last of the 'Freddy nightmares' starring
ROBERT ENGLUND

ever is.

"After all," as Freddy says in his final nightmare. "Every American town has its Elm Street."

VERDICT

● Gone for good? Who can say? At any rate, this sixth dice (and slice) with the devilish Freddy is a jolly horror romp that reveals Freddy's reason for revenge, and ties everything up neatly at the end.

There's even a last reel in 3D (Freddy Vision) though the process is, as ever, hardly up to snuff.

Robert Englund gives it his best shot as the scarred child-murderer who haunts the dreams of his victims, now after the last surviving teenager from Springwood, scene of the original *Elm Street*.

He hopes that the youth will lead him to his (Freddy's) nearest and dearest – the child that was taken away from him after his guilt was discovered.

Effects, gory and otherwise, are adequately done, though they don't look too expensive. Freddy is permitted a nice last line by way of a curtain call, in an ending which doesn't exactly close the door to further developments in the saga.



One guy asked me to sign his girlfriend's cleavage 'Die now. Love Freddy'!

"I look at the collection of *Elm Street* films as pop culture, violent little comic books. Horror movies like that are just old-fashioned US art and give us a great cheap thrill, neither more or less harmful than the circus.

"If I thought Freddy caused real damage, I wouldn't have had any part of it."

Now Englund believes the time really has

come to hang up the brown fedora, the red-striped jumper and the metal rapier glove. All three are to be placed in a coffin-shaped time capsule, which will be buried beneath an *Elm Street* in some US city yet to be named – if it

Producers
ROBERT SHAYE/ARON WARNER
Director
RACHEL TALALAY
Screenplay
MICHAEL DeLUCA
Photography
DECLAN QUIN
Music
BRIAN MAY
90 Minutes – Certificate 18
(GUILD)

Freddy Krueger ROBERT ENGLUND
Maggie LISA ZANE
John SHON GREENBLATT
Tracy LEZLIE DEANE
Carlos RICKY DEAN LOGAN
Spencer BRECKIN MEYER
Doc YAPHET KOTTO
Loretta Kreuger LYNDSEY FIELDS
Katherine CASSANDRA RACHEL FRIEL

RATINGS

SCRIPT 6

PERFORMANCES 6

PRODUCTION 7

DIRECTION 7

ENTERTAINMENT VALUE 6